

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A self-pumping hydropneumatic spring strut with internal level control, said spring strut comprising:

a high pressure chamber containing a gas cushion acting as a spring;

a working cylinder which is filled with damping medium under pressure of said gas cushion;

a working piston carried by a hollow piston rod and dividing said working cylinder into two working spaces, one of said working spaces being connected to said high pressure chamber to drive said piston under the pressure of said gas cushion, said piston having at least one non-return valve which permits flow from said one of said working spaces to the other of said working spaces;

a low pressure chamber;

a piston pump comprising a pump cylinder formed by said hollow piston rod and a hollow pump rod received in said piston rod, said pump rod having a bore with one end connected to said low pressure chamber and another end carrying a non-return valve which permits flow from said low pressure chamber into said hollow piston rod, and a cut-off orifice which connects said one of said working spaces to said low pressure chamber as a function of the position of said piston in said working cylinder; and

an adjustable damping valve connected to a duct running from the other of said working spaces, said adjustable damping valve having an actuating element acted on by the pressure in said high pressure chamber and the pressure in said low pressure chamber.

Claim 2 (original): A spring strut as in claim 1 wherein said actuating element is spring-loaded in one direction.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A spring strut as in claim 1 wherein said adjustable damping valve comprises a valve element which is controlled by said actuating element.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A spring strut as in claim ~~2~~ 3 wherein said ~~valve~~ valve element is a spring washer valve.

Claim 5 (original): A spring strut as in claim 1 comprising at least one flow connection which provides flow from a respective at least one of said high pressure chamber and said low pressure chamber to said actuating element.

Claim 6 (original): A spring strut as in claim 1 wherein at least one said flow connection has a throttle.

Claim 7 (original): A spring strut as in claim 1 wherein said actuating element comprises a piston arranged in a housing and having one end face acted on by pressure of the

Appl. No. 10/668,568  
Amdt. dated May 21, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2004

high-pressure chamber and an opposed and face acted on by pressure of the low-pressure chamber.

Claim 8 (original): A spring strut as in claim 1 wherein said actuating element comprises at least one stop which limits movement in a respective at least one direction.